2. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically determining the coordinate region of the reference features includes:

- enlarging [the] a field of view of the main sensor;
- locating the reference features within the enlarged field of view; and
- shrinking the field of view of the main sensor such that the reference features are within the field of view of the main sensor.

5. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically determining the coordinate region of the reference features includes locating the reference features within [the] a field of view of a secondary sensor.

6. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically determining the coordinate region of the reference features includes sensing an edge of the sheet of material.

7. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically determining the coordinate region of the reference features includes sensing an adjacent pair of edges of the sheet of material.

8. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically determining the coordinate region of the reference features includes sensing a predefined graphics feature of the sheet of material.

9. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically determining the coordinate region of the reference features includes sensing two predefined graphics features of the sheet of material.

10. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein automatically determining the coordinate region of the reference features includes:

- moving the main sensor in a predetermined pattern surrounding the expected coordinate region of the reference features; and
- stopping the movement of the main sensor when the reference features are within [the] a field of view of the main sensor.

12. (amended) In a method for cutting at least one graphics area from a sheet of material bearing a combination of such graphics area(s) and a plurality of registration marks in predetermined positions with respect to the graphics area(s), such combination being in a predetermined approximate position and orientation with respect to a set of reference features of the sheet of material, the method including (a) placing the sheet of material on a sheet-receiving surface, (b) sensing [the] precise positions of the marks with a main sensor, and (c) cutting the graphics area(s) from the sheet of material in response to such precise positions, the improvement comprising:

- automatically determining whether the reference features are in an expected coordinate region on the sheet-receiving surface;
- if the reference features of the sheet of material are not in the expected coordinate region, automatically determining the coordinate region of the reference features on the sheet-receiving surface;
- sensing [the] metrics of the reference features to determine [the] a position and orientation of the sheet of material; and
- inferring therefrom the approximate positions of the registration marks,

whereby cutting occurs precisely despite two-dimensional distortion of the sheet of material prior to cutting.

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13. (amended) In a method for narrow-path-processing with respect to at least one graphics area on a sheet of material bearing a combination of such graphics area(s) and a plurality of registration marks in predetermined positions with respect to the graphics area(s), such combination being in a predetermined approximate position and orientation with respect to a set of reference features of the sheet of material, the method including (a) placing the sheet of material on a sheet-receiving surface, (b) sensing [the] precise positions of the marks with a main sensor, and (c) narrow-path-processing with respect to the graphics area(s) in response to such precise positions, the improvement comprising:

- automatically determining whether the reference features are in an expected coordinate region on the sheet-receiving surface;
- if the reference features of the sheet of material are not in the expected coordinate region, automatically determining the coordinate region of the reference features on the sheet-receiving surface;
- sensing [the] metrics of the reference features to determine [the] a position and orientation of the sheet of material; and
- inferring therefrom the approximate positions of the registration marks.

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14. (amended) In apparatus for cutting at least one graphics area from a sheet of material bearing a combination of such graphics area(s) and a plurality of registration marks in predetermined positions with respect to the graphics area(s), such combination being in a predetermined approximate position and orientation with respect to a set of reference features of the sheet of material, such apparatus including (a) a sheet-receiving surface, (b) a main sensor, (c) a cutter operatively connected to the sensor and [movable] adapted to move about the sheet-receiving surface [for cutting] to cut the graphics area(s) from the sheet of material in response to [the] precise positions of the marks sensed by the main sensor, the improvement comprising: a reference feature identifier [which, if the reference features are not in an expected coordinate region on the sheet-receiving surface,] adapted to automatically [determines the] determine a coordinate region of the reference features if the reference features are not in an expected coordinate region on the sheet-receiving surface, and [which, when the coordinate region of the reference features is known, senses the] adapted to sense metrics of the reference features in order to infer the approximate positions of the registration marks when the coordinate region of the reference features is known. capable

15. (amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the reference feature identifier includes:

- a zoom lens on the main sensor; and
- a controller [with a set of locating instructions for] adapted to (a) [enlarging the] enlarge a field of view of the main sensor by zooming the lens, (b) [locating] locate the reference features within the enlarged field of view, (c) [repositioning] reposition the main sensor in response to the locating step, and (d) [shrinking] shrink the field of view of the main sensor by zooming the lens such that the reference features are within the field of view of the main sensor.

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16. (amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the reference feature identifier includes:

- a main-sensor height adjustor; and
- a controller [with a set of locating instructions for] adapted to (a) [enlarging] enlarge the field of view of the main sensor by increasing the distance of the main sensor from the sheet of material, (b) [locating] locate the reference features within the enlarged field of view, (c) [repositioning] reposition the main sensor in response to the locating step, and (d) [shrinking] shrink the field of view of the main sensor by decreasing the distance of the main sensor from the sheet of material such that the reference features are within the field of view of the main sensor.

17. (amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the coordinate region identifier includes:

- a secondary sensor with a field of view larger than the field of view of the main sensor; and
- a controller [with a set of locating instructions for] adapted to (a) [locating] locate the reference features within [the] a field of view of the secondary sensor, and (b) [repositioning] reposition the main sensor in response to [the] locating [step] the reference features within the field of view of the secondary sensor such that the reference features are within the field of view of the main sensor.

18. (amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the reference feature identifier includes a controller [with a set of locating instructions for] adapted to (a) [moving] move the main sensor in a predetermined pattern surrounding the expected coordinate region of the reference features, and (b) [stopping] stop the movement of the main sensor when the reference features are located within the field of view of the main sensor.

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